

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS:
EFIS, CA, US
SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE OF U.S.-CANADA INTERIM FISHERIES AGREEMENT
SUSPENSION

1. VANCOUVER SUN OF JUNE 8 CARRIES LENGTHY COLUMNS BY MARJORIE NICHOLS AND CLAUDE ADAMS, BOTH OF THE SUN'S WASHINGTON BUREAU. NICHOLS' COLUMN, ON EDITORIAL PAGE AND CAPTIONED "FISH WARS: EVEN A BAD PACT IS BETTER THAN NONE," STATES "WHETHER IT WAS PLANNED OR SIMPLY THE PRODUCT OF FORTUITOUS COINCIDENCE IS IRRELEVANT.... THE RECIPROCAL BORDER CLOSINGS HAVE SERVED TO REMOVE THE LARGEST OBSTACLE TO AGREEMENT IN THE FIRST PLACE; POLITICAL PRESSURE FROM THE FISHING INDUSTRY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER." NICHOLS REVIEWS BACKGROUND TO THE CURRENT DISPUTE IN EVENHANDED CALM MANNER AND EXPRESSES VIEW THAT FISHERMEN ON BOTH SIDES MUST BY NOW RECOGNIZE "THAT EVEN AN INTERNATIONAL FISHING AGREEMENT THAT IS NOT TOTALLY SATISFACTORY TO EVERYONE IS BETTER THAN NO AGREEMENT AT ALL." NICHOLS BELIEVES THAT U.S. AND CANADIAN NEGOTIATORS ARE DELIBERATELY LEAVING AMPLE TIME FOR THIS POINT TO SINK IN AND GUESSES "THAT WHEN THE REPRESENTATIVES GET BACK TO THE BARGAINING TABLE THERE WILL BE FEWER HAWKISH SOUNDS EMANATING FROM THEIR CONSTITUENTS."

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2. ADAMS' COLUMN TAKES MUCH THE SAME TACK AND IS TITLED "CANADA-U.S. FISH BAN COULD BE A GOOD THING." HE IS CRITICAL, HOWEVER, OF HOW "TWO FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS BY PUTTING POLITICS AND 'PRINCIPLE' BEFORE DIPLOMACY, CAN ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE FORCED INTO A DEAD-END SITUATION THAT MAKES BOTH OF THEM LOOK AWKWARD." ADAMS JUDGES THAT CONGRESS IS "SHOWING SIGNS OF ANXIETY" ABOUT THE DISAGREEMENT AND CONCLUDES THE FOLLOWING: "THE MOST LIKELY SCENARIO IN COMING

DAYS IS THAT CONGRESS WILL HASTEN TO RATIFY THE 1978 AGREEMENT.
THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AN EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES BETWEEN
OTTAWA AND WASHINGTON, AND A HASTY TRUCE ON ALL FRONTS. SINCE THE
COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON IS ALREADY PAST ITS PEAK, FISHERMEN
ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER ALSO WILL LIKELY COOL THEIR BELLIGERENCE.
"

3. COPIES OF PRESS ARTICLES BEING MAILED TO EMBASSY AND
EUR/CAN.
LUPPI

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